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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/713,603	11/15/2000	Adam Coyle		5258
20350 7	590 10/21/2004		EXAMINER	
	AND TOWNSEND	PATEL, JAGDISH		
TWO EMBAR EIGHTH FLO	CADERO CENTER OR		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	SCO, CA 94111-3834	4	3624	
			DATE MAILED: 10/21/2004	4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Commence	09/713,603	COYLE, ADAM				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	JAGDISH PATEL	3624				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet with the c	correspondence addre	9SS			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL' THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply if NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period of Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tir y within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) day will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from , cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed /s will be considered timely. In the mailing date of this comm ID (35 U.S.C. § 133).	nunication.			
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 Ju	uly 2004.					
	action is non-final.					
3) Since this application is in condition for alloward closed in accordance with the practice under E			erits is			
Disposition of Claims						
4) Claim(s) 1,3,5-12,14-19 and 21-23 is/are pend 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdray  5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6) Claim(s) 1,3,6-12,14-19 and 21-23 is/are reject  7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.  8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	wn from consideration.					
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine	er.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) acc	10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.					
Applicant may not request that any objection to the	***					
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	,					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119	minite and a 95 H 0 0 0 440/-	) (d) an (6)				
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority application from the International Bureau * See the attached detailed Office action for a list	s have been received. s have been received in Applicat nity documents have been receiv u (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	ion No ed in this National Sta	age			
Attachment(s)	<b>C</b>					
1) Motice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4)					
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date		Patent Application (PTO-15	52)			

Application/Control Number: 09/713,603 Page 2

Art Unit: 3624

#### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 7/14/04.

## Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1,3,5,9,10,12,16-19 and 21-23 have been amended per request. Presently claims 1,3,5-12, 14-19 and 21-23 remain pending.

## Response to Arguments

- 3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims rejected over prior art have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
- 4. In response to the amended claims rejection of claims under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112 (second) have been withdrawn.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 5. Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss and further in view of Bator (US Pat. 6,575,362) (Bator).
- Claim 1: Weiss discloses a stored-value card system, which
  comprises:
  - a card issued by a card issuing institution; (col. 2 L 62-64, player cards)
- a card identifier associated with said card and assigned thereto by the issuing institution;

Page 3

Application/Control Number: 09/713,603

Art Unit: 3624

(col. 2 L 62-64 player selected or randomly assigned personal identification number)

a reloadable value associated with said card and credited to the card by the issuing institution; and

(col. 5 L 1-5, "depositing funds into their account", noting that the account is associated with the card)

a sub-account associated with said card and identified by the card identifier,

(col. 3 L 11+, ...system which allows players to establish an electronic account as easily as selecting a personal identification number and depositing funds at an enrollment station. Deposits can be comprised of cash, chips, checks or marker proceeds. After the account has been established, the player receives a player card which may be used at any gaming machine. The electronic account is accessed at any particular gaming machine via the player card and the associated personal identification number.)

a host computer communicatively connected with computational devices at point-of-sale establishments, the host computer having programming instructions to:

authorize a purchase made by presenting said card at point-of-sale establishments and debit a cost of the purchase from the said sub-account; and

authorize redemption a balance of the sub-account;

(refer to col. 3 L 11+ he electronic account is accessed at any particular gaming machine via the player card and the associated personal identification number. The player accesses funds from the electronic account by simply inserting the player tracking card into a card reader, entering the personal identification number associated with the card .. , col. 57-61, redemption apparatus , note that the authorization of game purchase at the gaming machines Gn and authorization of redemption of the balance (in the form of "prerequisite vouchers") are controlled by the host computer system 20)).

Weiss fails to teach that the stored value card system authorizes redemption of a balance of the sub-account in the form of a negotiable instrument payable to the holder of the sub-account.

Art Unit: 3624

Bator in the same field of endeavor, however, discloses a stored-value card system which comprises authorizing redemption of a balance of a sub-account in the form of a negotiable instrument payable to a holder of the sub-account (see abstract, col. 5 L 10-18, payment for money order is secured by drawing funds directly from .., col. 5 L 40-50 ..accepting payment by debiting accounts accessed via credit or debit cards, or directly debiting the amounts of the value from the stored in the smart cards and col. 6 L 10-16, processor communicates with a remote financial institution 18 wherein the account is maintained..)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to implement the feature of authorizing redemption of a balance of the sub-account in the form of a negotiable instrument payable to the holder of the sub-account as disclosed in Weiss as per teaching of Bator. Authorizing and issuing balance of funds in the form of a negotiable instrument payable to the account holder would provide more secure and convenient form of the negotiable payment instrument which may be more desirable in certain situations such as redemption of large amounts of money in the account that the account holder desires to cash out.

- Claim 3. wherein the instructions to authorize redemption of balance of the sub-account comprise instructions ..in the form of a money order (see claim 1, Bator explicitly teaches money order as a form of negotiable instrument).
- <u>Claim 7.</u> wherein said card includes a magnetic strip, the card identifier being encoded on the magnetic strip.
- (col. 8 L 54+ refer to fields identified as 1-9, filed 5 refers to card identification where one method of identification is card insertion, i.e. the identification is read via insertion of the card in the card reader, referring to col. 21 L 18+ read-write machine interface 82 shown in Fig. 10 shows a magnetic strip used to read the card identification)
- Claim 8. wherein said card identifier is adapted to be read by a reader at the point-of-sale retail establishment.

(refer to analysis of claim 7 noting that the POS is the location wagering where the customer uses the card for services)

Application/Control Number: 09/713,603 Page 5

Art Unit: 3624

Claim 9. wherein said reader is in communication with a network comprising multiple point-of-sale establishments which accept said card for the purchase of goods and services.

(refer to Figure 1 refers to G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>..G<sub>N</sub>).

 $\underline{\text{Claim 10.}}$  Weiss discloses a method of purchasing goods and services in transactions utilizing value-added cards, which method comprises the steps of

issuing a plurality of said cards to a point-of-sale retail establishment;

(col. 2 L 62-64, col. 3 L 11+ player cards)

pre-assigning sub-account identifiers to said cards;

(col. 3 L 11+ player cards and account has been established..player receives a player card)

crediting the sub-accounts associated with said cards with initial reloadable values;

(col. 3 L 11+ player cards and account has been established..player receives a player card)

debiting a respective sub-account by respective amounts in response to one or more purchases made with a respective one of said cards at a merchant; and

(col. 7 L 25-46, refer to download funds from the account to the gaming machines, in this context download amounts to debiting the sub-account ("account"))

issuing an instruction to generate a negotiable instrument payable of a balance of the respective sub-account to a holder of the respective sub-account in response to a request to redeem the respective one of the cards by said holder, wherein the balance is a difference between the values credited to the respective sub-account and the amounts debited from the respective sub-account.

Art Unit: 3624

(please refer to analysis of claim 1 for combination of Weiss and Bator references for teaching of this limitation and motivation for this combination)

Page 6

Claim 11. The method of claim 10, which includes the additional step of reloading said respective one of the cards in response to a purchase of additional values by said holder, by crediting said respective sub-account.

(refer to Fig. 7 .. deposit funds to his electronic account)

Claim 12. wherein crediting the sub-accounts comprises crediting the sub-accounts associated with the cards with identical predetermined amounts.

(col. 11 L 40-42, cash denominations)

<u>Claim 14.</u> wherein the negotiable instrument comprises a money order.

(see claim 3 analysis).

<u>Claim 15.</u> wherein the respective one of said cards includes a numerical identifier corresponding to said respective subaccount.

(col. 3 L 18+ personal identification number associated with the card)

<u>Claim 17.</u> receiving a request for authorization of a transaction to support the purchase, including an amount of the transaction and the sub-account identifier corresponding to the respective sub-account; and authorizing the transaction if sufficient funds are available to be debited in the respective sub account.

(refer to fig. 1, and relevant discussion on col. 7)

Page 7

Application/Control Number: 09/713,603

Art Unit: 3624

Claim 18. wherein the request was generated by a first computational device at the merchant and received by a second computational device linked to the first computational device.

(first device is a gaming device G1,..GN at the casino and second computational device is Bank/Progressive controller 94 shown in Fig. 1)

- Claim 19. wherein the respective one of said cards includes a magnetic strip, encoding the sub-account identifier for the respective sub-account on the magnetic strip.
- (col. 8 L 54+ refer to fields identified as 1-9, filed 5 refers to card identification where one method of identification is card insertion, i.e. the identification is read via insertion of the card in the card reader, referring to col. 21 L 18+ read-write machine interface 82 shown in Fig. 10 shows a magnetic strip used to read the card identification)
- <u>Claim 21.</u> wherein said reloading said respective of the cards comprises crediting the respective sub accounts with one of a plurality predetermined incremental amounts.

### (col. 11 L 40-42, cash denominations)

<u>Claim 22.</u> receiving a request for authorization of a transaction to support the purchase, including an amount of the transaction and the sub-account identifier; and

authorizing the transaction if sufficient funds to be debited from the respective subaccount.

(refer to fig. 1, and relevant discussion on col. 7)

Claim 23. wherein the request was generated by a first computational device adapted to read the sub account identifier

Art Unit: 3624

from the magnetic strip, and received by a second computational device.

(transaction authorization request is generated by gaming machine GN which reads the sub account identifier from the magnetic strip (refer to discussion of prior claims) and received by a Bank/Progressive controller, 94 shown in Figure 1).

being unpatentable over Weiss and Bator as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Fite (US Pat. 6,467,68) (Fite).

Claims 6: Weiss and Bator fail to disclose, however, in the same field of endeavor, Fite teaches a stored-value card system wherein the card identifier is printed on the card and selectively concealed by a removable concealing strip attached to the card (see col. 6, claim 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have the card identifier is printed on the card and selectively concealed by a removable concealing strip attached to the card identifier is printed on the card and selectively concealed by a removable concealing strip attached to the card in order to prevent fraudulent use of the card if lost or stolen.

Claim 16 is similarly analyzed.

### Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

Art Unit: 3624

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### Conclusion

- 8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- 9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH

Application/Control Number: 09/713,603 Page 10

Art Unit: 3624

PATEL whose telephone number is (703)308-7837. The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703)308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

10/18/04